

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 061637

17

ORIGIN SSO-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY S/S-O: COLE

APPROVED BY S/S-O: MACK '

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

1 COPY FOR S/S-O

----- 130276

O 131137Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CIA IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE

DIRNSA IMMEDIATE

TREAS IMMEDIATE

USCG IMMEDIATE

JCS IMMEDIATE

SECDEF IMMEDIATE

DIA IMMEDIATE

DOD IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 061637

E.O. 11652, GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. LEBANON: SCORECARD ON A COUP IN PROGRESS

A. INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

ACCORDING TO EMBASSY BEIRUT, GENERAL AL-AHDAB'S COUP HAD BEEN COOKING WITHIN THE OFFICER CORPS FOR SOME TIME. HOWEVER, THE MARCH 11 TIMING MAY HAVE BEEN A LAST MINUTE DECISION SPARKED BY SYRIAN FRUSTRATION OVER THE LEBANESE IMBROGLIO. THE COUP SEEMS TO BE PICKING UP MOMENTUM AND SUPPORT. A CROSS SECTION OF REACTION SHOWS:

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 061637

--JUMBLATT, THOUGH HE WANTS FRANGIE OUT, OPPOSES MILI-

TARY INTERVENTION; SOME LEFTISTS SUPPORT THE COUP AND JUMBLATT MAY BE OUT ON A LIMB.

--THE PALESTINIAN REJECTIONISTS ARE THOUGHT TO BE UNHAPPY WITH THE TURN OF EVENTS, BUT THERE IS EVIDENCE OF FATAH BACKING FOR THE COUP.

--CHRISTIANS SEEM TO FAVOR THE MOVE, BUT THE OLDER GENERATION IS DISTURBED BY ITS "ILLEGALITY."

--CHAMOUN HAS ATTACKED THE COUP, BUT HE MAY ACCEPT THE INEVITABILITY OF FRANGIE'S DEPARTURE.

--THE PHALANGE POLITBURO HAS VOTED TO SUPPORT THE COUP, BUT THERE IS INTERNAL DISSENT. THE STRENGTH OF THIS SUPPORT FROM THE CHRISTIAN RIGHT IS PIVOTAL TO AL-AHDAB'S HOPES FOR SUCCESS.

ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS IN THE UNFOLDING DRAMA INCLUDE:

--THE RETURN TO BEIRUT FROM SYRIA OF LEFTIST MUTINEER LT. KHATIB.

--A REPORT THAT KARAME HAS SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION TO FRANGIE.

--EXPECTATION THAT PARLIAMENT WILL ASK FOR FRANGIE'S RESIGNATION MARCH 13.

--THE GATHERING BY FRANGIE OF A LARGE NUMBER OF MEN NEAR JBIEL FOR AS YET UNKNOWN PURPOSES.

B. SYRIA SHOWS QUIET SATISFACTION

THOUGH EVENTS IN LEBANON ARE BEING REPORTED OBJECTIVELY IN SYRIA, INDICATIONS ARE THAT SYRIAN OFFICIALS KNEW IN ADVANCE OF THE IMPENDING COUP AND SUPPORTED IT:

--THE DEPARTURE OF THE SYRIAN DELEGATION FOR DAMASCUS WAS UNDOUBTEDLY TIMED TO AVOID ACCUSATIONS OF SYRIAN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 061637

COMPLICITY.

--SYRIAN MEDIA REPORT THAT ASAD HAD BEEN IN TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH BOTH THE LEBANESE PRESIDENCY AND THE LEBANESE ARMY COMMAND.

C. ISRAEL SITS ON ITS HANDS FOR NOW

THE ISRAELIS ARE ADOPTING A WAIT AND SEE ATTITUDE CONCERN-
ING THE COUP BUT CONSIDER SYRIA'S ATTITUDE CRITICAL. THE
ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCES:

--SEE NO SYRIAN ROLE IN THE COUP ITSELF; BUT

--FEEL SYRIAN PRESTIGE IS ON THE LINE AND ASAD MAY
HAVE TO DECIDE QUICKLY WHETHER TO COMMIT SYRIAN FORCES
TO SAVE THE SITUATION. (SECRET) BEIRUT 2249; (LIMITED
OFFICIAL USE) BEIRUT 2251, 2257, 2259; (SECRET) DAMAS-
CUS 1434 AND (CONFIDENTIAL) TEL AVIV 1840, 3/12.)

2. UK: PARLIAMENTARY DONNYBROOK LEAVES LABOR WINDED

ALTHOUGH THE OUTCOME OF THE MARCH 11 PARLIAMENTARY VOTE OF
CONFIDENCE LOOKS LIKE A VINDICATION OF THE GOVERNMENT AND
ITS ECONOMIC POLICY, EMBASSY LONDON REPORTS THE GOVERNMENT
HAS BEEN WEAKENED AND DEEP WOUNDS REMAIN IN THE PARLIAMEN-
TARY LABOR PARTY. IN A RAUCOUS, DISORDERLY DEBATE:

--WILSON AND HEALEY MADE IT CLEAR THE GOVERNMENT IS
NOT DISPOSED TO REVISE PLANNED CUTS IN EXPENDITURE
PROGRAMS.

--LABOR DISSIDENTS WERE WARNED THAT FAILURE TO SUPPORT
THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TRIGGER A GENERAL ELECTION; THEY
REPLIED THAT THEIR SUPPORT SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS AGREE-
MENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC MEASURES.

--MRS. THATCHER RECEIVED NO REPLY TO HER QUESTION
WHETHER A GOVERNMENT WHOSE ECONOMIC POLICIES WERE
OPPOSED BY A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF ITS OWN PARTY
COULD GOVERN.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 061637

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN DAMAGED AND CON-
SERVATIVE CONFIDENCE AT LEAST PARTIALLY RESTORED. ALTHOUGH
THE LONDON TIMES HAS SUGGESTED ELECTIONS IN THE FALL, SUCH
SPECULATION SEEMS PREMATURE. THE END OF THE GOVERNMENT IS
BY NO MEANS IN SIGHT. (CONFIDENTIAL) LONDON 3988, 3/12.)

3. INTERVENTION IN RHODESIA: CUBA BACKED BY POPULAR DEMAND?

THE SECRETARY'S MARCH 11 STATEMENT CONCERNING THE USG'S
ATTITUDE TOWARD POSSIBLE CUBAN INTERVENTION IN RHODESIA
CAME UNDER FIRE DURING A RECENT CONVERSATION BETWEEN OAU
OFFICIAL PETER ONU AND EMBASSY ADDIS. IN ONU'S VIEW:

--AFRICANS COULD ONLY CONSTRUE THE STATEMENT AS AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR SMITH AND VORSTER.

--ALL AFRICANS WOULD WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT CUBAN INTERVENTION AGAINST THE SMITH REGIME, WHEREAS THEY HAD BEEN DIVIDED OVER ANGOLA.

--THE CUBANS ARE UNLIKELY TO ENTER RHODESIA SO LONG AS THE SOUTH AFRICANS STAY OUT.

ONU SAID THAT ANY AMERICAN STATEMENT OPPOSING INTERVENTION BY BOTH CUBA AND SOUTH AFRICA WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE OAU AND MOST AFRICAN MEMBER STATES. (CONFIDENTIAL) ADDIS

ONU SAID THAT ANY AMERICAN STATEMENT OPPOSING INTERVENTION BY BOTH CUBA AND SOUTH AFRICA WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE OAU AND MOST AFRICAN MEMBER STATES. (CONFIDENTIAL) ADDIS ABABA 3134, 3/12.)

4. PORTUGAL: POPULAR DEMOCRATS PROTEST SOCIALIST MEETING

THE OPORTO MEETING OF EUROPEAN SOCIALIST LEADERS SPONSORED BY THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY HAS BEEN LABELED "GROSS INTERFERENCE IN INTERNATIONAL PORTUGUESE AFFAIRS ON THE EVE OF AN ELECTION" BY POPULAR DEMOCRATIC LEADER SA CARNEIRO. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY LISBON:

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 STATE 061637

--ALTHOUGH JAMES CALLAGHAN WITHDREW AT THE LAST MOMENT, WILY BRANDT, FRANCOIS MITTERAND, OLOF PALME, BRUNO KREISKY, AND FRANCISCO DE MARTINO WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE EVENT.

--SA CARNEIRO HAS DELIVERED VERBAL PROTESTS TO THE EMBASSIES OF PARTICIPATING EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

--THE PPD IS ORGANIZING A MASS RALLY IN OPORTO MARCH 13, AN ACTION THE SOCIALISTS DESCRIBE AS FOMENTING DISTURBANCES.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE PPD ATTACK IS LIKELY TO HEIGHTEN THE MEETING'S IMPACT IN PORTUGAL. SOARES AND THE SOCIALISTS CAN BE EXPECTED TO EXPLOIT THE PPD REACTION. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 1604, 3/12.) KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, MORNING SUMMARY, POLITICAL SITUATION, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE061637
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: COLE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760095-0950
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760363/aaaacdne.tel
Line Count: 218
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SSO
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PGOV, MOPS, PINT, LE, SY, IS, UK, CU, RH, PO
To: CIA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006